

FUKUSHIMA et al.

Appl. No. 10/530,861

Amendment dated February 12, 2009

Response to Office Action dated November 12, 2008

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-4, 7, 10 and 12-16 are pending in the application. By the present amendment, claim 1, 3 and 12 have been amended and claims 2 and 8 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer as to the subject matter contained therein. Claims 5, 6, 9 and 11 were previously withdrawn as being directed to non-elected subject matter. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The rejection of claims 1, 2 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is moot in view of the amendment to claim 1. Without acquiescing in the rejection, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of canceled claim 8 and a portion of the subject matter of amended claim 3. As such, the rejection will be discussed with respect to the rejection of claim 8 (the remaining rejections being rendered moot), which is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Knight, Sakata (U.S. Patent No. 4,729,640) and Eichenlaub (U.S. Patent No. 6,157,424). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action concedes that neither Knight nor Sakata disclose, teach or suggest the feature of a pair of polarizers sandwiching a pair of transparent-electrode substrates therebetween. The Office Action cites Eichenlaub as allegedly providing these admittedly missing features. It is respectfully submitted that even if, *arguendo*, Eichenlaub were properly combinable with Knight and

Sakata, it nevertheless fails to overcome the admitted fundamental deficiencies of Knight and/or Sakata.

In particular, Eichenlaub is directed to a 2D/3D imaging display using both an imaging LCD and a secondary LCD. The secondary LCD is a light line forming LCD which can be placed between a light line forming system and the imaging LCD for eliminating ghost images, or can be used as the light line forming system itself. The embodiment in which the secondary LCD is used as the light line forming system is illustrated and described with respect to Figure 6.

The Figure 6 embodiment illustrates arranging glass substrates 36 and 38 with a liquid crystal layer 32 interposed therebetween, and polarizing strips 35 on one surface of the glass substrate 38. There is no teaching or suggestion in Eichenlaub of a pair of polarizers arranged on both surfaces of the pair of transparent-electrode substrates. In fact, Eichenlaub specifically teaches away from such an arrangement by stating “[N]o polarizer needs to be placed on the front of this second piece of glass 38.” (see, e.g., Col. 7, lines 6-7). Thus, not only is there no teaching or suggestion of the specifically recited feature of a pair of polarizers sandwiching the pair of transparent-electrode substrates, Eichenlaub counsels against such an arrangement.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Knight, Sakata and Eichenlaub, even if arguably proper, nevertheless fails to render the

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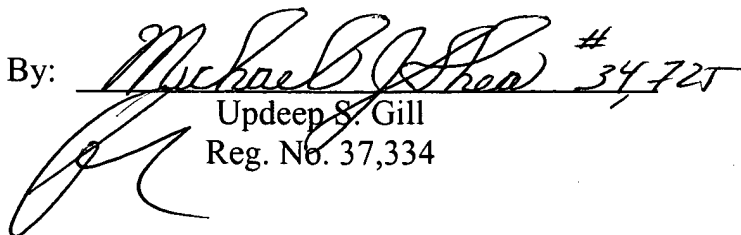
claimed invention obvious. There is no teaching or suggestion in any of the references of the specifically claimed polarizers that sandwich the claimed pair of transparent-electrode substrates, and instead, one of ordinary skill is taught to avoid this arrangement. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the entire application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that further issues require resolution prior to allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney of record at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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